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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Military Airfield At Prague-Kbely

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SOURCE

Military Airfield, Kbely, Near Prague

1. This airfield is located about one kilometer south of the obec Kbely, near Prague, between the highway Prague-Brandys nad Labem and the highway Prague-Hloubetin-Kbely, (see Enclosure A). About 200 meters northeast of the edge of the field is the railroad line Prague-Vysocany-Cakovice. Winds of northwesterly and westerly directions prevail.
2. Runways: The field has one concrete runway about 40 meters wide and two thousand meters long, facing at 60 degrees and 240 degrees. I do not know the strength of this runway; however, I did observe DC-3, JU-52 and heavier aircraft landing on it. The strength of the general field area outside the runway is excellent: while the runway was undergoing repair, I observed DC-3 type aircraft landing on the field area without the slightest difficulty, in spite of the fact that it had been raining for some time.
3. Perimeter concrete roads: The field has a 15 meter wide connecting concrete runway for taxiing, which leads from the manipulation area in front of the hangars to the main runway.
4. Night flying equipment: Though I am not precisely familiar with this installation, I do know that all higher points on, and in the vicinity of, the airfield are marked with red warning lights, and that the field has a beacon in which a regularly rotating light is mounted. Other equipment includes a goniometer and a stationary

SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODES

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25X1X

- 2 -

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25X1A

radiogoniometer, the latter located in a building [circled number 8, Enclosure A]. There is a mast with radar equipment, and other miscellaneous approach aids for landing aircraft at night and in fog; I do not know anything about the other equipment. Due northeast, immediately skirting the left side of the field (on takeoff in the direction of 60 degrees), there is the obec Kbely. In the opposite direction (on takeoff at 240 degrees), the right hand side of the field is skirted by the buildings and masts of the military radio transmitting station some 60 meters tall [circled number 9 on Enclosure A]. But actual natural obstacles do not exist within 20 miles of the field, since the field itself is located on a 100 meter high plateau. [For airfield buildings, hangars, and other installations, see Enclosure B, with legend; dimensions are estimated.]

5. Standard equipment: I saw the following types of aircraft on the field: DC-3 Dakotas; JU-52 Junkers; SI-204 Siebel; AE-45 Aero; Arado 96; Zlin 181; Aero c-104; Messerschmitt Me-109; Mosquitos; PO-2 Kukursnik, and Czechoslovak and Soviet made MIG-15 jets; Fiesseler-Storch; Piper-Cub; Praga E-114; Messerschmitt ME-262 (so-called Swallow jet). Though I am not familiar with the exact number of each type of aircraft, I would estimate the total number of aircraft based on this field to be about 130; of this number about 25 to 30 are jet aircraft. (There was quite a turnover in aircraft, making estimates difficult).
6. Personnel: Apart from the military personnel (I do not know the number of soldiers stationed on the field, or in the caserne), there are some civilians employed on the field; they are, for the most part, aircraft mechanics.
7. Approach: The field is approached by the main approach highway which leads from the Prague-Brandys nad Labem road: the approach highway is concrete; a secondary approach highway, a blacktop, is also available. The field is enclosed by a wire fence along the roadsides.

- end -

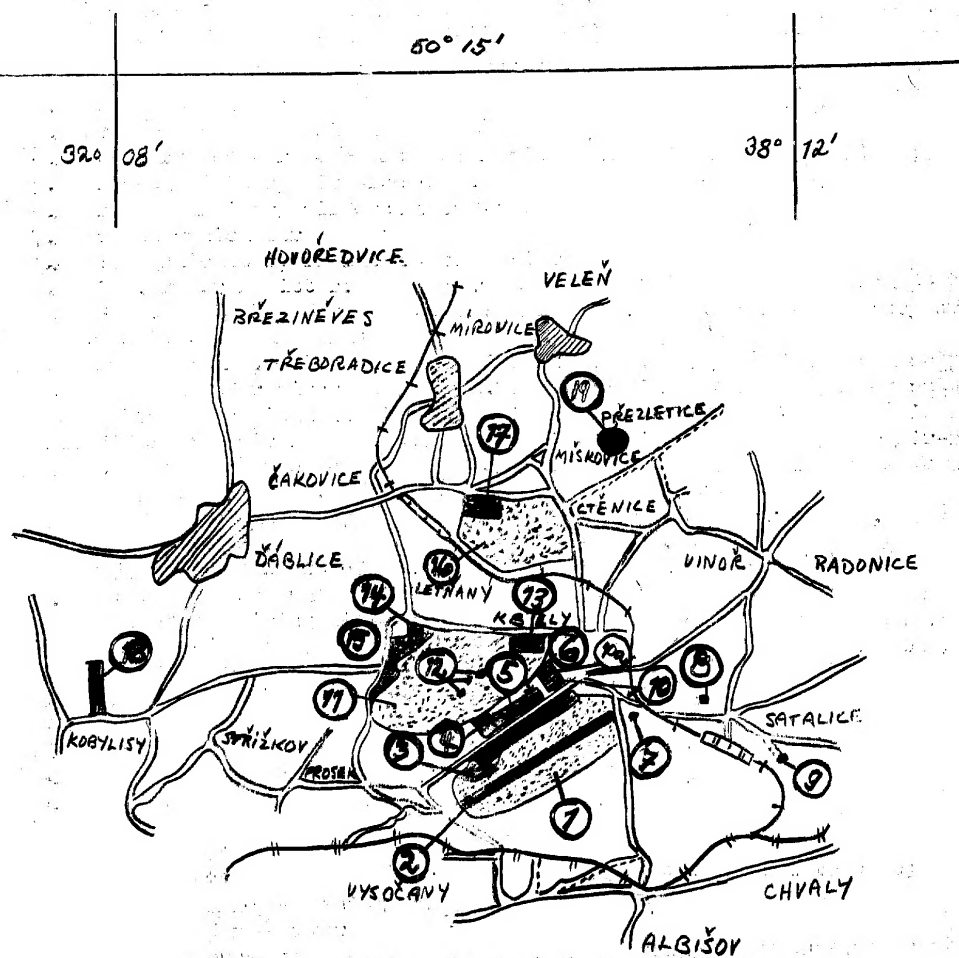
Enclosures: (A): Sketch of Military airfield at Prague-Kbely and military objectives in its vicinity with legend.
(B): Sketch of Military airfield and caserne in Prague-Kbely, with legend

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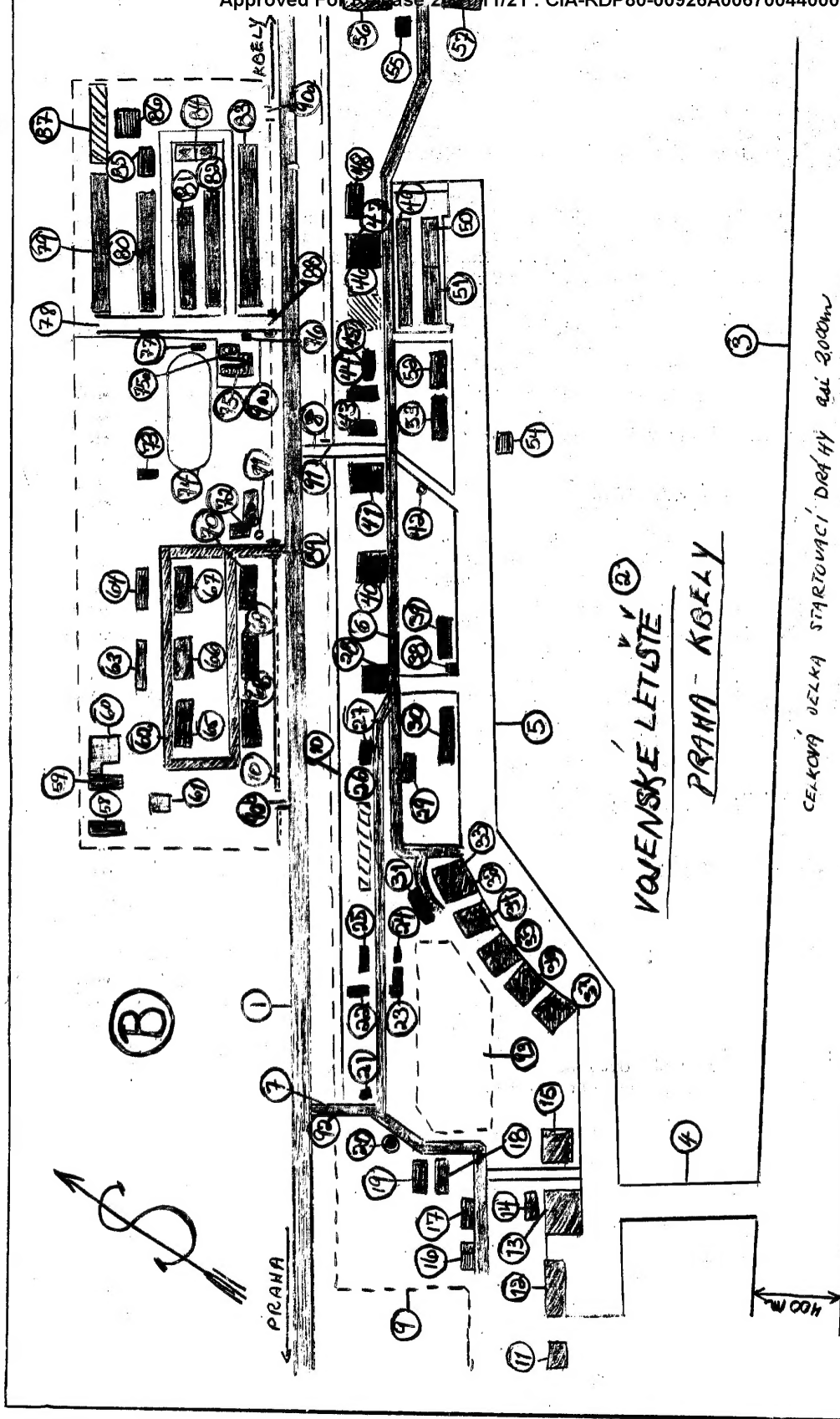
A

SKETCH OF MILITARY AIRFIELD AT PRAGUE-KBELY AND MILITARY
OBJECTIVES IN ITS VICINITY WITH LEGEND

Legend to: Military Airfield at Prague-Kbely and Military Objectives in Its Vicinity; Map of Prague 3953

1. Surface area of the airfield;
2. Concrete runway;
3. Area of airfield buildings;
4. Quarters for career officers and civilian employees of the field;
5. Area of military airforce caserne
6. Area of military airforce warehouse
7. Mobile goniometer
8. Radiogoniometer, inside a 6 x 6 meter brick building
9. Military transmitter: has four steel masts; the masts are from 50 to 60 meters tall. Next to the masts there is a square, three story brick building.
10. "PAL" Factory, national enterprise in Kbely. This factory manufactures generators for aircraft engines, electric windshield wipers for automobiles, etc.
- 10a. Military Technical Institute. This institute tests minor inventions.
11. Area of the airfield in Letnany. This airfield is used by the air-research institute, by the Rudy Letov factory, by the Aero factory and by the Kbely aircraft workshops.
12. Hangars for the aircraft of the AERO Factory; there are three, measuring 30 x 30 meters each.
13. Hangar and workshop of the Kbely repair shops; source is not certain whether these shops are under military or civilian supervision. The shops are used for repairing military aircraft and are generally called Kbely-Repair. (Opravna-Kbely)
14. Aircraft factory Rudy Letov
15. Air Research Institute (Letecky Vyskumny Ustav - LVU)
16. Airfield of the AVIA factory in Letnany
17. Airfield of the AVIA factory in Celakovice
18. Military rifle range in Kobylisy [a suburb of Prague]
19. Area in which the radar equipment is located.

25X1A



SKETCH OF MILITARY AIRFIELD AND CASERNE IN PRAGUE-KBELY WITH LEGEND

Legend:

1. Military Airfield and Caserma in Prague-Kbely
2. Asphalt highway from Prague to Brandys nad Labem
3. Airfield, 800 x 2,000 meters
4. Concrete runway
5. Taxiing runway
6. Concrete manipulation area in front of the hangars
7. Asphalt road between buildings
8. Approach road to airfield (secondary)
9. Main approach highway (concrete)
- 9a. Wire fence surrounding airfield building
10. Wooden fence
11. Live fence (hedge) behind the wire fence
12. Motor brake /engine testing brake?/ in brick building 10 x 15 meters
13. New hangar; 40 x 15 x 7 meters, steel and brick structure, with a slanting roof
14. Aircraft warehouse workshops; brick hangar, 35 x 35 x 12 meters
15. Aircraft warehouse workshops; ground floor brick building, 35 x 8 x 5 meters, used by the sheet metal workers and mechanics
16. Hangar; curved roof, steel and brick construction, measuring 30 x 30 x 12 meters and used for repairing larger aircraft
17. Carpenter shop; ground floor brick building, 12 x 7 meters
18. Boilerhouse; ground floor brick building with level roof, approximately 10 x 8 x 6 meters.
19. Quarters of airforce personnel
20. Beacon with revolving searchlight, about 6 meters wide at its base and 20 meters high, with glass cupola.
21. Military guardhouse, at the secondary entrance to the field, 6 x 6 meters
22. Offices of the transportation unit; ground floor brick building, 6 x 4 meters
23. Motorpool; L-shaped ground floor brick building, 12 x 6 meters
24. New, steel construction, garage for vehicles, 10 x 5 meters
25. Garage for vehicles, ground floor brick building 15 x 6 meters
26. Old wooden building; 40 x 10 meters
27. Corrugated sheet metal, steel girder construction of a vehicle garage measuring 16 x 7 meters
28. Hangar of the training flight; steel girders and brick, 15 x 15 x 9 meters
29. Motor vehicle garage; dimensions and construction same as item 27.
30. Hangar of the training flight; steel girder construction covered with corrugated sheets, 30 x 108 meters
31. Radio workshops, brick house, 12 x 8 meters
32. Hangar, reinforced concrete and brick, with arched roof, 35 x 35 x 10 meters
33. Control tower for air transportation and meteorologic observations; brick annex to a hangar; 6 x 6 meters, 14 meters high with glassed-in cabin.
- 34,35,36,37. Hangars, same construction and dimension as item 32
38. Office of the "reporter" of foreign aircraft, wooden house 4 x 4 meters
39. Training flight hangar, same as item 30
40. Bombed out hangar (formerly of the same construction as item 28)
41. Motion picture theater; ground floor wood building, 15 x 15 meters
42. Underground gasoline tanks with pumps mounted on the surface (aircraft gas)
43. Military check post at the main entrance of the airfield; wooden shack, 12 x 7 meters.
44. Factory kitchen for civilian employees; wooden shack 35 x 10 meters
45. Garage for vehicles of the airforce transportation regiment
46. Area of bombed-out hangar
47. Hangar of same construction and dimensions as item 28
48. Boilerhouse, same as item 17
49. Workshops and warehouse (warehouse of airforce materials and weapons); ground floor brick building, 40 x 10 meters
- 50, 51. Hangars; steel girder and brick construction, these are double hangars measuring 50 x 15 x 8 meters.
52. Operations building; brick ground floor building, 15 x 8 meters
53. New hangar, construction same as 50 above, measures 20 x 10 x 10 meters
54. Newly erected aircraft control building, also housing the meteorologic station; brick building, 12 x 12 x 12 meters. The upper part, serving as the control tower is glassed-in

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55. Subterranean tanks for aircraft fuel.
- 56,57. Brick buildings of the farm, belonging to the military administration.
58. Quarters for women, who wore military uniforms and worked in the operations building.
- 59, 60. Office of the Weather Central I, connected with the operations room of the control building; brick building, 20 x 20 meters, with arched roof.
61. Officer's dining room, quarters and kitchen; 2 story brick building, 12 x 15 meters; quarters are upstairs.
62. Asphalt road leading through caserne.
63. Old wooden shack, 40 x 10 meters, used for fire wood storage.
64. Old wooden shack, 20 x 10 meters, used for coal storage.
- 65,67,68,70. Blocks of the caserne buildings.
66. Military kitchen; two story brick building, 50 x 12 meters. The basement houses the boiler room and the dining room is on the second floor.
69. Headquarters building of the 1st Airforce Base and several military units; three story brick building, 50 x 12 meters. The attic of this building houses offices of the military transmitter station and also the teletype central office.
71. Wooden guard post at the entrance to the caserne; three x four meters.
72. Main guard house and dispensary.
73. Hydrogen warehouse (belongs to the aerologic center) wooden building, five x three meters.
74. Soccer field.
75. Warehouse of meteorologic material; wooden building, 40 x 10 meters.
- 75a. Number 1 Airforce Warehouse for automobile parts; brick building, 40 x 10 meters.
76. Gatehouse at the entrance to the warehouse; brick building four x four meters.
77. Warehouse for sporting goods and other equipment.
78. Concrete highway between warehouse buildings.
79. Warehouse compound of Number 1 Airforce Warehouse; 45 x 12, housing aircraft parts.
80. Garage of the transportation squad of the Airforce Warehouse.
81. Warehouse space for aircraft engines and kites.
82. Warehouse for profile material [sic structural steel?]
83. Main warehouse building, housing the consumer section [sic], instrument and equipment section, armorer shop, clothing warehouse, aircraft machine gun warehouse and workshops. This is a ground floor brick building 60 x 12 meters and in the center of the building there is a two story annex, housing the offices.
84. Ground floor brick building 12 x 7 meters.
 - A. Transportation office of the motor company attached to warehouse;
 - B. Civilian employee dining hall;
85. New garages, 15 x 8 meters.
86. Firewood warehouse, warehouse space for wood shavings, saw dust and crates; 15 x 10 meters.
87. Rifle range for zeroing-in of weapons.
88. Main entrance to the airforce warehouse.
89. Main entrance to the airforce caserne; iron gate.
- 90a. Secondary entrance to airforce warehouse.
- 90b. Secondary entrance to airforce caserne.
91. Main entrance to the airfield; iron gates.
92. Secondary entrance to the airfield.
93. Area which holds several unoccupied houses (two story villas), partially bomb damaged. The ground floors of some of these houses were adapted for mechanical workshops.